

# *Glass Mask*

SUZUE MIUCHI

28





HANA TO YUME COMICS

# GLASS MASK

VOLUME 28 THE PURPLE SHADOW (I)

SUZUE MIKICHI



AT LAST, THE FINAL CURTAIN CALL FELL UPON THE TWO PERFORMERS, A PLAY THAT RECEIVED TREMENDOUS POPULAR AND CRITICAL ACCLAIM FROM AUDIENCE AND CRITICS.

THE END





I received lots of praise for this part...

Even if I couldn't compare with Ayumi's Orsino...

WE ARE JX PRODUCTIONS.

WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO JOIN OUR CAST FOR OUR PLAY

YOU MUST DEFINITELY BE PART OF OUR AFTERNOON PROGRAM ON NHK-GO TV

YOU'D BE A PERFECT OPHELIA...

WHY? ME, OPHELIA IN HAMLET?

*For the wonderful person Ophelia  
Congratulations for the chance  
of this play*  
Yuu-fu

And now you know, my Purple Eyes...

my road is now open...

Thank you...

But maybe also because I received, by taking that bet, all those bouquets of flowers from Masami Hayami, the well-known hair-makeup from Daitoku...

IT SEEMS LIKE A DREAM TO BE ABLE TO PLAY SUCH A ROLE

OPHELIA IN HAMLET

IF YOU MOVE ME...

I'LL SEND YOU YOUR LONG-STEMMED ROSES.

IT WAS WITHOUT A DOUBT, BECAUSE OF MY MISINTERPRETATION OF HENRIQUESS ALONE.









TO THINK, JUST  
A WHILE AGO,  
EVENTS FROM  
ANOTHER  
WORLD FILLED  
THIS HALL!

THIS  
SILENCE  
SEEMS  
SO INCRE-  
DIBLE TO  
ME...

BUT WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING HERE,  
AYUMI-SAN?

I WISHED  
TO SPEND  
SOME TIME  
IN QUIET  
CONTEM-  
PLATION.

ALONE AND  
AWAY FROM  
THE LOUD  
BOTHERSOME  
NOISE OF  
THE PARTY.



YES...

IN AN INSTANT,  
EVERYTHING WAS  
DISAPPEARED,  
AS IF UPON THE  
MOMENT OF A  
DREAM...

A WORLD WITH  
QUEENS, WHIPPING  
MILITONS, PLOTS,  
INTRIGUES...



BEAUTIFUL  
AND ENCHAM-  
TING!

YOUR ALONE  
WAS WON-  
DERFUL,  
AYUMI-SAN!

TRULY,  
YOU  
SHINE ON  
STAGE!



...FOR  
BOTH THE  
PUBLIC  
AND THE  
ACTORS.

IT ALLOWS  
YOU TO LIVE A  
DREAM-LIKE  
EXISTENCE  
FOR A  
MOMENT.

ACTING IS  
WONDER-  
FUL!



I WANT TO  
BECOME  
AS GOOD  
AS YOU

THANKS

THIS PLAY HAS  
SHOWN ME THE  
DIFFERENCE IN  
ABILITY BETWEEN  
THE TWO OF US

BUT, AS I  
FEARED,  
I'M NOT AS  
GOOD AS YOU  
ARE, YET

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
PRAISE

I REALLY  
WANT TO

BY YOUR  
STRONG,  
POWERFUL,  
FASCINATING  
AND UNDEFEATED  
CHARM...

I HAD THE  
IMPRESSION OF  
BEING STRONGLY  
INFLUENCED



AH!

EVERYONE  
WAS REALLY  
FRIENDLY TO ME

AH! I ALMOST  
FORGOT! THANK  
YOU FOR LENDING  
ME YOUR HOUSE,  
AUNT-SAN!



I  
AGREE!

IT WAS  
NICE BEING  
ABLE TO  
ACT TO-  
GETHER  
ON THE  
SAME  
STAGE!

GIVE MY  
THANKS TO  
THE ACTORS  
OF THE  
PELLEGRAGE AND  
DARUWILL  
COMPANIES

THANKS TO  
YOU I COULD  
EXPERIENCE  
THE UNDER-  
GROUND  
THEATRE!



BUT I'M  
CONFUSED!  
I DON'T KNOW  
WHICH TO  
CHOOSE

YES... THREE  
FOR PLAYS,  
TWO FOR TV  
AND ONE FOR  
A MOVIE...

I IMAGINE YOU  
RECEIVED  
LOTS OF JOB  
OFFERS...



Ayumi-  
SEN...

CHOOSE A GOOD  
PLAY THAT WILL  
SUIT YOU

THANKS

THERE'S ONLY A  
YEAR LEFT OF THE  
TERM IMPOSED BY  
TELRASSE-SENSEI  
FOR THE CRIMSON  
ADDRESS.

THE GRAND ARMS  
ARMORY WILL TAKE  
INTO CONSIDERATION  
IMPORTANT  
WORKS PLAYED  
LATE AUTUMN OF  
THIS YEAR!

THE SADNESS,  
THE HATE, THE  
FEAR OF ORISELO...  
WERE COMING  
FROM MY HEART.

ON THE STAGE  
I LIVED THE  
TRAGIC FATE  
OF ORISELO  
AS IF IT  
WERE MINE!

ON THE  
STAGE I  
WASN'T  
MYSELF!

IT DIDN'T SEEM  
LIKE ACTING  
AT ALL!

I WALKED THIS  
STAGE, NOT AS  
AYUMI HINAKAWA,  
BUT AS ORISELO!

IT WAS LIKE  
A TOTALLY  
DIFFERENT  
PERSONALITY  
WOULD TAKE  
OVER.

...ANIMATING  
ME.

I ALREADY  
DECEIT THE  
END OF  
THIS PLAY!

AS IF I AM  
LEAVING A  
PART OF  
MYSELF  
BEHIND...

DURING  
EVERY PER-  
FORMANCE  
I WAS  
ORISELO!



OH!

WHAT  
IS IT?

IT WAS THE FIRST  
TIME I MET  
WITH MY CHARACTER,  
BODY AND SOUL...

FOR ME,  
IT'S  
ALWAYS  
LIKE THAT.

ON THE STAGE  
I ALWAYS  
BECOME  
SOMEONE  
ELSE...

...WHAT  
YOU'RE  
SAYING...  
AH-HA-SAM...

I'M NOT SURE  
I UNDER-  
STAND...

SAM

ENT







I WILL

Aye-ye-ye-ye!

YOU MUST!

BECAUSE YOU ARE MY RIVAL!

THANK YOU EYELASH-SAIL!

Before you, I always feel defeated.

Maya Kito-Deal!

I've returned-  
twisted-  
but!

For her it's always like that!

If only I could rejoice in my victory for just one day!

You're terrifying!

That which I had just recently mastered, becoming one with the character, for her it was always the natural thing to do!









WHAT?  
WHY DO YOU  
REFUSE  
THIS MEETING,  
MAGNUM?



Maps...



I'VE HAD  
ENOUGH OF  
THIS ARGUMENT!



UNTIL I HAVE  
STAGED THE  
CRIMINAL SCENE  
I DON'T WANT TO  
THINK ABOUT  
MARRIAGE!

FATHER,  
THERE IS STILL  
SOMETHING I  
WANT TO DO!



AND YOU WILL  
OBEY ME,  
MAGNUM!



WHEN THE OTHER  
FAMILY DECIDES  
ON A DATE FOR  
THE MEETING, I  
WILL ANSWER IN  
YOUR NAME.

YOU CAN'T  
EVEN GRASP  
THAT?!

DO YOU KNOW  
HOW MUCH  
YOU AND DADO  
WOULD GAIN  
FROM THIS  
PERSON?



Is this  
really  
you?

Look  
at you,  
Masaru...

Are you the  
one called...

I can't  
recognize you!

...the heartless  
bossman  
of Dalto Art  
Productions...

And all  
for that  
girl so much  
younger  
than you!

...standing  
here, unable  
to move!

Mary!

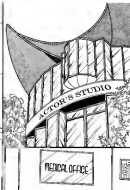




YOUR COMEBACK  
ON STAGE WAS  
ENLIGHTENED YOU.

REDUCE YOUR  
STRESS AS  
MUCH AS  
POSSIBLE.

YOU SHOULD  
TAKE A BREAK  
FROM TEACHING  
AND RELAX.



MEDICAL OFFICE



ACTOR'S STUDIO

ACTOR'S STUDIO



DOCTOR'S OFFICE

SLAM

SHE WAS  
REALLY  
CARELESS TO  
GO ONTO THE  
STAGE IN HER  
CONDITION.  
A SERIOUS  
RELAPSE.



DOCTOR'S  
OFFICE



IF SHE DOESN'T  
REST FOR AT  
LEAST SIX  
MONTHS,  
I CAN'T  
GUARANTEE  
HER HEALTH!

NOT BEING  
ABLE TO  
TEACH MEANS  
SHE WILL BE  
A BURDEN  
TO US.

AS THE PRINCIPAL  
OF THE INSTITUTE  
I CAN'T ALLOW THE  
CONSTANT SURVEI-  
LLANCE OF A SICK  
PERSON FOR SIX  
MONTHS!

IN SPITE OF THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
MADE BY  
HAKAMI-SAN...

BUT PRINCIPAL...  
THE VICE-PRESIDENT  
OF EMTO IS AN OLD  
ACQUAINTANCE OF  
OUR PRESIDENT!

Six months!





Thank you  
for sending  
the words  
The Two  
Princesses

Purple  
Rose, how  
are you?

Hifi-Tan told  
me that you  
appreciated my  
acts, and this  
makes me happy.



I've reached  
the job  
offer!

For a play,  
a movie, and  
a drama.

Did you  
know?

A month has passed  
since the closure  
of the play and  
I've returned to  
my usual life, too...



The  
road  
my  
road  
has  
opened.

None of them are  
main parts,  
but the fact  
that everyone  
recognized my  
skills is a little bit  
worth it.

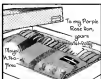


From then  
on, since  
I can feel  
her smile  
in me,  
even now.





You did this  
for me...



Thank  
A.T.O.  
You



Yes...



If I told you the  
truth about my  
identity...



THINKS THAT YOU  
MAYBE-SAMA, THE  
PURPLE ROSE, IS AN  
ELDERLY PERSON.

IT WOULD  
SEEM THAT  
MAYBE-SAMA

THANKS FOR  
EVERY-  
THING  
ALIVE.

TELL HER  
I REALLY  
ENJOYED IT!

AS YOU  
SAY!

















HAH??

AN  
OMG??

IT'VE BEEN NOTHING HERE  
BUT TALK ABOUT THE OMG  
BETWEEN MAGUM-SAMA  
AND THE DAUGHTER OF  
AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY  
BUSINESSMAN!

WE WERE SO  
SHOCKED!

YES,  
MAGUM-  
SAMA!

APPARENTLY  
HIS FATHER,  
THE PRESIDENT,  
IS IMPROVING  
THIN ON HER!



It's really  
absurd!

What?  
But it  
makes no  
sense!



IT IS TRUE  
THAT MAGUM-  
SAMA HAS  
EVERYTHING  
HE WANTS.

BUT I AM  
SURE HE WON'T  
OFFEND HIS  
FATHER.

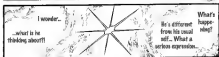












WHEN ANNA  
COMMITTED  
SUICIDE, I  
WAS HORRIFIED

YES...  
THE SCENE  
WAS  
TOUCHING...

BLAH  
BLAH

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
ATTENDANCE  
TODAY.

DID YOU  
LIKE THE  
PLAY?

Bob

Anna  
Karlsson...

Whenever  
I want...

I'LL  
TALK  
TO  
YOU  
WHEN  
YOU  
WANT!

IS THERE  
ANYWHERE  
YOU'D  
LIKE  
TO  
GO?

THE  
RE'S  
SOME  
TIME  
TO  
FOUR...  
WOULD  
YOU  
LIKE  
TO  
GO  
FOR  
TEA?

WIFE







I'LL RETURN WITH HIM!

NO, YOU CAN GO

WILL YOU NEED THE CAR GUY?

Either-  
not, some-  
how...



I'M WONDERING WHICH WILL BE YOUR NEXT PORT



HAVE YOU DECIDED YET WHICH TO TAKE?

I IMAGINE THAT AFTER THE TWO PROPOSALS YOU'VE RECEIVED LOTS OF JOB OFFERS

NO, NOT YET!



I'LL TRY YOU HOPE I FAIL!



BECAUSE I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR A WHILE

YOU KNOW ME WELL...

HA



IS IT A DIFFICULT CHOICE?

WELL, THEY ARE ALL INTERESTING OFFERS



WHERE ARE WE GOING, HAYASHI-SAN?

DON'T YOU LIKE WALKING A LITTLE, OHAI-SAN?

ONCE IN A WHILE IT'S GOOD TO TAKE A STROLL



THANK YOU EVERYTHING WAS DELICIOUS



Walking around with Hayami-san? Mr?



YOU ARE SO FOLLOWY.

AND YOU ARE APPROVING.



FORGOTT  
EXACTLY  
MATCH  
YOUR  
IMAGE.

A BEAU-  
TIFUL AND  
DRAMATIC  
ROLE!

OPHELIA  
IN  
HAMLET?

WHICH  
ROLE  
GOT YOUR  
ATTENTION?

THAT'S  
WHAT I  
THINK  
ALSO



I WOW.

YOU GREAT ARE  
CHIEF-  
CHAM.

IT'S BECAUSE  
I AM  
BEAU-  
TIFUL!

NOW AFTER  
PLAYING  
PRINCESS  
ALICE, YOU'VE  
GOTTEN USED  
TO PLAYING  
BEAUTIFUL  
MAIDEN?







LOCAL INSTITUTE OF CULTURE



ALL  
WOMEN  
SAFE



THE  
STAIRS

SHALL WE  
GO SEE THE  
STARS,  
CHRY-CHRY?



UP ON  
THE FIFTH  
FLOOR, BUT  
THE SHOW  
HAS AL-  
READY  
STARTED

WHERE  
IS THE  
PROTEC-  
TION  
ROOM?

ALL  
SAFE...



IS IT ALRIGHT  
TO COME HERE  
JUST LIKE  
THAT?



AND THAT THE DIRTYLE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY MODERNIZED

I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU'VE WILL, SIR.

YOU WERE DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS SINCE CHILDHOOD

YOU'VE BECOME A STRONG-LOOKING MAN

INDEED I NOW BELONG TO THE OLD DAYS

I NOW LEAVE THE PROJECTOR TO YOUNGER PEOPLE!



BUT OF COURSE IT WOULD BE YOUR

LITTLE MAYAM! I REMEMBER YOU!

HELLO, SIR!

YOU USED TO COME SO OFTEN!

BYE-BYE...



I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS BEFORE

YOU WERE SO FRIENDLY

WHAT IS IT?



THANK YOU SEE YOU LATER.

I'LL COME UP TO SEE YOU LATER!

THE LAST PRESENTATION IS BEING HELD RIGHT NOW

STRAIGHT AHEAD, THEN TURN LEFT AND YOU'LL FIND THE ELEVATOR TO THE FIFTH FLOOR!



Ah!

The starry  
sky!



I LIKED  
THE  
HUMANITY  
OF SPACE.

THE  
OPEN  
SPY...

I USED TO  
COME HERE  
OFTEN AS  
A KID.

COMING HERE,  
YOU COULD  
DISCOVER  
YOUR OWN  
SIGNIFICANCE.

FOR NO MATTER  
HOW MUCH SACRIFICE  
AND ANGER WE  
FEEL, WE CAN SEE  
HOW SMALL WE  
TRULY ARE.

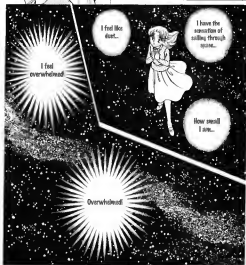




Byebye!  
soon!

ALLOWING ME  
TO BEAR ANY  
BURDEN.

NO MATTER HOW  
YOU'RE FEELING,  
WITH THE HEART  
EXPANDS AND  
RELIEVES ITSELF  
OF ALL ITS  
PAIN...



I feel  
overwhelmed

I feel like  
dust...

I have the  
sensation of  
crying through  
space...

How small  
I am...

Overwhelmed













What did  
he feel, looking  
up into the  
starry sky...

...often  
amidst this  
multitude of  
stars that  
make you  
feel so help-  
less?

It seems incredible that since childhood  
Ispared-our would come here, alone,  
to cry...

That he would  
be moving here  
regularly since  
elementary  
school...

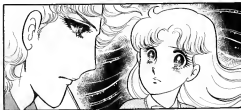


COME  
BACK  
ALREADY!

YES.

YOU'RE  
GONNA

TURBING  
FOR  
EVERY-  
THING



SHED  
THERE IS  
SOMETHING  
YOU'LL ENJOY.

NO, LET'S  
WALK A BIT  
MORE.



THE URBANITY AREA OF TOKYO  
WITH MANY DEPARTMENT STORES,  
SCHOOLS, RESTAURANTS AND  
CORPORATIONS.

WE  
COULD  
GO TO  
SHOPS.



EVERY MONTH  
ON THIS DAY,  
A FESTIVAL IS  
HELD AT THIS  
TEMPLE.

WOW,  
SO MANY  
PEOPLE!











YES

DO YOU UNDER-  
STAND, BASILARY?



DON'T EVER THINK  
THAT  
YOU MUST ALWAYS  
BE ABLE TO  
DEPEND  
YOURSELF



ALWAYS  
BE ON  
GUARD!

CONFRONT  
THOSE THAT  
COME NEAR  
YOU WITH A  
SMILE ON  
THEIR FACE!



YOU MUSTN'T  
SHOW  
MERCY  
TOWARDS  
PEOPLE!



YOU ARE MY SON!  
THEY COULD WANT  
TO MAKE AN ATTEMPT  
ON YOUR LIFE!

I HAD TO LEARN  
TO DEFEND  
MYSELF AND I  
BECAME DEEPLY  
SUSPICIOUS  
OF OTHERS.

COLD,  
CALCULATING,  
ASTUTES.













No.  
Beyond now.

No!

NOT

IS MY  
COMPANY  
THAT BORING?



And now what  
are you going to do,  
Mitsuru?







FOR WHICH  
I HATED  
YOU HERE  
TODAY  
IS...

THE  
REA-  
SON...

Please reveal  
your heart  
to me!



WAIT A  
LITTLE,  
PLEASE.

YOU  
ARE  
HERE.

HAYAMI-  
SAMA?



Maya...



Hayami-  
sama...



Ah!

HAYAMI-  
SAMA  
THERE'S A PHONE  
CALL FOR YOU.









*I didn't want  
to worry you  
too much.*

*mean-  
less  
of the  
stages  
Rage  
Theatre.*

*Rev. Singsht,  
This And  
That.*

*At the moment I'd  
only be a burden for  
all of you and the  
spills! Gladie*

*Forgive me  
for leaving  
before  
without  
notice.*

*Games  
is with  
me.*

*Even if I  
won't tell  
you where  
I'm going,  
don't  
worry.*

*I intend to be  
somewhere else and  
I feel better, just  
like the doctor  
recommended.*

*Swoosh*

*I'll  
return  
again  
some day,  
be sure  
of that.*





SHE WENT AWAY WITHOUT  
ANYONE NOTICING, AND  
WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE  
WHERE SHE IS HEADED TO,  
SO THAT SHE WOULDN'T BE  
A BURDEN TO YOU ALL  
AND TROUBLE YOU  
WITH WORRIES.



TELRAGE-  
SENSEI  
ONLY NEEDS  
REST!

IT'S  
NOT A  
SERIOUS  
ILLNESS.

WHY DIDN'T  
YOU TELL ME  
THAT HER  
CONDITION HAD  
WORSENIED?

THAT WAS  
COULDN'T  
TEACH  
ANYMORE!!

HEYAAA-  
DAAA!

SHE EXHAUSTED  
HERSELF  
PLAYING IN  
THE TWO  
PRINCESSES

SHE NEEDS  
TO TAKE A  
BREAK TO  
RECOVER HER  
STRENGTH.

WHA?

LIAR!

DIDN'T YOU PROMISE  
ME THAT YOU WERE  
GOING TO TAKE  
CARE OF HER?





IT'S YOUR FAULT  
THAT SHE DIED!

PLEASE STOP  
DOING  
ME BACK  
ANY  
MORE!!

Mami!

THAT  
WOULDN'T  
HAPPEN!  
I ASSURE  
YOU!

IF I IN-  
VITED YOU  
TODAY...

THAT  
WAS  
JUST  
FO

I ENJOYED  
THE TIME I  
SPENT WITH  
YOU TODAY.

THANK  
YOU!





Just then...





Takakage - come!

What did you want to tell me Takami-san?

Let to



...what exactly?



The truth...

...they can't  
be seen because  
of the city  
lights...

...also shine  
over this sky  
that goes over  
Tokyo, even if...

The  
uncom-  
fortable  
stars  
in the  
sky...

...can't be  
clearly  
seen...

Reverent-  
ness...





I am going to  
the Goddess's  
terrace...

Ichirou

Ichirou Ozaki...  
The man who gave  
me the life of the  
Crimson Goddess...

I can feel that there  
I shall meet you...  
Ichirou...

Smoosh





Little by little I've  
begun to feel  
an invisible  
attraction  
for her...



an  
invisible  
passion

I've never met anyone  
like her... loyal and  
spontaneous, able to hide  
in that tiny body...



An  
unheard-of  
thing.

Ma!





Master  
servant



You shall be only  
a shadow for  
all your life...

Only a  
shadow!



And  
still...

What will  
become  
of you,  
Master?

Television, cinema or theater?  
A contemporary part, a historical  
one, the part of a young lady from  
an established family or that of the  
unfortunate lover Ophelia...



Aah... What should I choose?  
What would be the part  
most suited for me?



There is little time  
left until the  
Crimson Goddess!







IS UNBORN AND VIBRANT  
KNOWN IS ALWAYS IN  
CONTRADICTION WITH  
EVERYONE AND WAS  
FORCED BECAUSE OF  
THIS TO STEP AWAY  
FROM THE WORLD OF  
THEATRE FOR MORE  
THAN FIVE YEARS

BYE-BYE  
KURO-  
NAMI, A  
DIRECTOR  
OF GREAT  
Talent

BUT...

JUN MIKAMI  
IS THE MOST  
FAMOUS ACTRESS  
IN OUR PRODU-  
TION HOUSE

WATCH YOUR  
WORDS,  
KUROKUMA-  
KUN

DID YOU REALLY  
BELIEVE THAT  
SHE COULD  
HANDLE SUCH A  
CHARACTER??

WHEN WILL YOU  
FIND ANOTHER  
OPPORTUNITY LIKE  
THIS? DO YOU  
WANT TO DESTROY  
EVERYTHING ALL  
OVER AGAIN?

PRES-  
IDENT

YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER  
YOU WANT BUT I DO  
NOT INTEND TO HAVE MY  
NAME CONNECTED TO  
THIS WHICH IS ALREADY  
AN ANNOUNCED FAILURE

JUN  
MIKAMI  
WILL  
ATTRACT  
THE AUDI-  
ENCE!

I AM THE ONE  
WHO KNOWS  
MORE THAN  
ANY OTHER HOW  
TO APPROPRIATE  
AN ACTRESS'S  
VALUE!

THAT PERSON  
IS NOT ABLE  
TO INTERPRET  
THE CHARACTER

TALKING TO  
KUROKUMA-SAN  
WILL RAISE THE  
PRESIDENT'S  
BLOOD PRESSURE  
RISK

IF IT'S  
GOING TO BE  
A Fiasco  
THE PEOPLE  
WILL NOT COME  
TO THE PLAY

DON'T  
YOU THINK  
ABOUT THE  
FACILITY?

NOW  
THERE

HE'S A PERFECTIONIST AND WON'T APPROVE OF ANYTHING UNTIL HE IS TOTALLY SATISFIED WITH IT. HE WORKS TIGHTLY WITH IT, EITHER THE ACTORS OR THE STAFF TO DEATH.

HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE MONEY.

AND TO SEND AWAY AN ACTOR A WEEK BEFORE THE DEBUT.

WITHOUT HIS MYSTRAUST AND HIS STUBBORNNESS HE COULD HAVE HAD A CAREER.

HE IS ABLE TO FIND A GUILT.

KUROKAWA-GUN IS AN EXPERT IN BRINGING FORTH UNKNOWN TALENT FROM THE ACTORS THAT EVEN THEY DON'T KNOW THEY HAD.

AFTER FIVE YEARS.

HIS SHOWS ARE KNOWN TO BE VERY DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET.

AND THERE IS STILL GREAT DREAD FOR THE RETURN OF THE GENIUS SYNDROM KUROKAWA.

THAT CREATED ANXIATION.

YES, THAT'S TRUE. A WEEK BEFORE THE OPENING A STAR OF THE CINEMA LIKE ISHINO ARASHI WAS FIRED BECAUSE SHE ARGUED WITH DIRECTOR KUROKAWA.

THIS PART WOULD BE WASTED ON SUNI ARASHI.

BUT, ONLY THIS ONCE, I AGREE WITH HIM!

THE SYNOPSIS IS THERE EVEN BEFORE THE REHEARSAL'S BEGIN.

THAT'S WHY EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL BECAUSE OF HIM.

THIS IS THE FIRST PROJECT OF HER AFTER FIVE YEARS OF ABSENCE.

IF YOU REALLY  
WANT TO DO IT  
THAT WAY,  
THEN GO  
BE IT  
BUT RE-  
MEMBER!

IF THE SHOW IS  
A FAILURE BECAUSE  
OF LOW AUDIENCE  
NUMBERS, I'LL HOLD  
YOU RESPONSIBLE.  
KUDOMUN!

BECAUSE  
IT'S NOT  
ONE OF A  
PERSON

IT'S A  
DIFFI-  
CULT  
PART

NOW  
THERE

THIS  
ISNT FOR  
ANYONE.

# SLAM

I'LL FIND THE  
ACTRESS  
MYSELF

OF COURSE,  
I'LL DO AS  
I WANT!

Somewhere there  
has to be...

...an actress able to  
interpret this character...





TRIVIAL: TO THE WORLD-KNOWN CALENDAR THAT IS STILL IN USE, JAPAN COUNTS THE YEARS FROM THE START WITH EVERY NEW EMPEROR. THE 'SHOWA' ERA IS BETWEEN 1926-1989, SO THE 50TH YEAR WOULD BE 1975.



She has to be somewhere!



She has to be a girl with an expressive sight.



I've visited almost all of the companies which were worth looking into.

HAVE YOU FOUND A GIRL IN OUR COMPANY WHO MIGHT PLAY THE ROLE?

TELL ME KURO-SUNA-SENSEI.

NONE OF THEM HAS THE RIGHT LOOK...

NO.



An actress able to overcome her foreknowledge of being human, her pride as an actress, her orthodoxes, and everything else!

Where could the actress I am searching for be?



I'VE GOTTEN THESE FROM TV AND CINEMA STATIONS AS WELL AS THEATRICAL COMPANIES.

THERE ARE THE ACTRESSES YOU'VE MARKED ON THE LIST.

THESE ARE THE RECORDINGS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PLAYS IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.





THE ISOLATION  
OF HIRAKU  
KURONUMA  
HAS BEGUN.

HE'LL STAY THERE  
FOR ABOUT 15 DAYS  
TO ARRANGE THE  
DIRECTING SCRIPT.



HE COMES  
OUT ONLY TO  
GO TO THE  
BATHROOM.

BLACK  
FLAME

IT'S  
ALREADY  
BEEN FOUR  
DAYS SINCE  
HE CLOSED  
HIMSELF  
IN THERE.



I JUST WONDER  
WHO WILL SATISFY  
KURONUMA FOR  
THIS PART.

ONLY AN  
ACTRESS OF  
EXTRAORDINARY  
TALENT COULD  
SUSPECT A  
NON-HUMAN  
FOOT, THAT OF  
A BEAST.

IT IS ONLY  
NATURAL THAT  
THE ROLE  
DISTRIBUTION  
PROCEEDS  
SLOWLY.



HE HAD A  
SLAMMET  
BEANET AND  
SLEEPS ON  
THE COUCH.

IN-  
CRED-  
IBLE!



MY  
SISTER  
CROCOD?

MY! MUCH  
MAYBE WILL  
SHE MEET.



THANK,  
I DO  
NOT...

TO SPEND  
TIME TOGETHER  
SO FREELY!

LIKE A  
BRAIN LEFT  
TOGETHER!

SURPRISE

...NOT  
DO I  
LOVE.

SLIDE



IS THERE  
OUGHT I  
MAY DO?

VERY

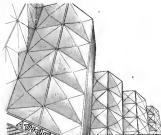


# Phoning



























HOW A  
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE  
THAT THE HOLYER  
COULD HAVE RUBBED  
TWO GIGLES \*

MAN OF  
TWO ADVENTURE  
ENTRANCE\*\*

JOHN  
THEY LOOK HUMAN,  
BUT THEY WALK  
ON ALL FOURS.

AND THEY SWIM  
AND BITE  
WHENEVER COMED  
CLOSE TO THEM \*

STEWART  
THEY ARE HUMAN BEINGS.

WE HAVE TO TEACH  
THEM HOW TO GET  
ALONG IN LIFE...

ORIGIN MAN  
THERE, LATER  
AND GENTLEMAN

THIS IS A  
LARGE SPOT  
IN THE WORLD  
THIS CENTURY'S  
GREATEST  
GIGGLE\*

COME AND SEE A  
REAL WONDER  
THE  
WOLF GIRL\*

WE HAVE TO  
TEACH THEM  
HOW TO GET  
ALONG IN LIFE \*

HOW TO WEAR SHOES,  
BRUSH THEIR HAIR,  
WEAR CLOTHES,  
SPEAK LIKE HUMANS DO  
AND NOT BOWEL ON BARK

HOW TO  
WALK ON TWO  
LEGS.





Join  
the  
girl.

Join  
the  
wife.

Join,  
raised as a  
wife in the  
wilderness.

I'll spin up TV,  
the cinema,  
Ophelia's part,  
everything...

...so that I may  
interpret *Love*.



I want  
to interpret  
*Love*!

I want  
to interpret  
*Love*!





















**DASH**



















WE  
DON'T  
NEED  
THIS!



THE  
THE

THEME



KITASHI

...THE NEVER  
BEEN REAL  
MOLLYS

HELLO  
TAKO  
HAVE  
YOU

...AND  
NOT  
EVEN  
THE  
PUBLIC  
HAS



WELL  
BECAUSE  
THE MOLLYS  
FEEL  
SADNESS



SO CLEAR  
AND LONG  
THEY SOUNDED  
BONNIE  
SAY...



...WELL HOW'S IT





The  
feelings  
of a  
wolf...



OBVIOUSLY  
AS A  
WOLF...



THERE ARE  
THREE MONTHS  
LEFT UNTIL  
THE ACTUAL  
RESEARCH...

...BUT DO LIKE  
YOU TO APPEND  
THEM LEARNING  
HOW TO BE  
A WOLF.

WHEN WE  
MEET AGAIN  
I'LL WANT  
YOU EXPRESS  
YOUR  
FEELINGS.



THE  
PERFECTION  
OF YOUR  
WOLF!

SHOW ME THE  
PERFECTION...

I often studied  
my characters,  
but the feelings  
of a wolf...



The motions...



here, the  
wolf girl.



How can I  
do that?

How?

IS JUST  
AS I  
WAS  
EXPECTING  
HER TO  
BE

AKIRA  
KITA-  
JIMA

SHE WILL  
BE THE ONE  
ABLE TO  
OBTAIN A  
WILD LOOK  
IN HER EYES



IT WOULD SEEM  
HE REJECTED ANY  
OTHER CANDIDATES  
FOR THE PART...

THE  
WOLF  
GIRL...



THEN HE  
CAME OUT  
OF  
DECISION  
AND WENT  
BACK TO  
WORK!

I'VE  
HEARD  
RUMORS  
THAT THE  
SHOW WILL  
BE HELD  
IN AUTUMN



THE DIRECTOR  
IS PERSONAL  
ALSO KNOWN AS  
GENERAL CORN



IT WOULD SEEM THAT  
AKIRA KITAJIMA  
WILL PLAY THE  
WOLF GIRL IN  
FORGOTTEN WILDERNESS







The ceiling  
is so high...

And exactly  
how big is  
the sliding  
door!

The closet  
is so  
spacious!



Ah, the  
hair clip  
I thought  
I lost.!



Ah,  
here's a  
paper

Hey, Rei's feet  
have suddenly  
gotten bigger...



Risks of  
tampering!

FLUSH  
FLUSH



SMOOSH

how would  
people have  
looked for  
Jana.?

I wonder,

97 APR  
97 APR

From  
here...

SPLASH  
SPLASH

people seem  
so much bigger  
than...

AWOOOOO

WHOA!  
GOING DOWN  
THE STAIRS  
ON ALL  
FOURS IS  
SCARY!

AWOOOOOOO  
AWOOOOOOO







I've begun to  
understand Joad!

Joad!



I shall do  
my best  
and live  
like Joad.











SIGH



However, for  
Joan this must  
be as natural

It would have  
been torture  
to walk on  
two legs



Seeing from above  
all the things she  
used to see  
from below..

This is enough  
to see the world  
completely  
different..

It's hard  
moving on  
all fours..

My elbows,  
knees, and  
even my back  
hurts..



How can you  
wander like this  
over floors  
and beds?



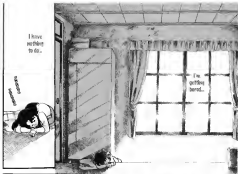
Someone who forces you  
to dress, to walk on  
two legs, to sit on a  
chair and to speak  
in their language..

And then  
the human  
society.

For a while  
it's a small  
world full of  
cruelty and  
suffering..

















It can't  
sleep in  
peace!



AND SO  
MAYA  
DOESN'T  
GIVE UP

BY ALWAYS  
SITTING ON  
ALL FOUR  
HER JOINTS  
ARE HURTING

SHE WON'T  
SPEAK  
ANYMORE

SHE  
EXPRESSES  
HER  
EMOTIONS  
ONLY WITH  
HER GESTURES







OH NO!  
THE  
LESSON!

GIRLS!  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
THESE DAYS  
JUST  
HANGING  
AROUND?

I'M  
SURE  
OF  
IT

WELL...

YOU'LL  
IMPROVE  
...

Maybe, I can hardly  
wait to see how  
you'll interpret  
your wolf girl







You can become  
a wolf, even  
in your heart,  
can't that do?

This is beyond  
my comprehension

It's impossible for you  
to not hear the TV,  
and yet you're ignoring  
the laughter by clicking  
into your linear ad,

right,  
Maya?











HOW CAN  
YOU LIVE  
WITHOUT  
WORDS?

BECAUSE  
USING WORDS  
TO COMMUNICATE  
IS CHARACTERISTIC  
OF HUMAN  
SOCIETY

I  
GET  
IT

I THINK  
THAT FOR  
NOW THIS  
IS A GOOD  
WAY TO  
FIND OUT



HEY, ALL OF YOU!  
IF WE WANT TO  
MAINTAIN OUR SUCCESS  
AT THE ATHENS THEATRE  
WE ALSO HAVE TO  
TRY OUR BEST!

TODAY'S  
WORK  
SHALL BE  
IMITATING  
A WOLF!

HOW ABOUT  
WHEN SHE'S  
HAPPY  
AND IS  
HAVING  
FUN?

WHAT FUN  
WILL HER  
GRINNING  
TELL OF  
WHEN SHE'S  
SAD?

WHAT KIND  
OF MOVES  
WILL COME  
OUT OF HER  
MOUTH  
WHEN SHE'S  
ANGRY?

TO BE ABLE TO  
BECOME AN APPEAL  
AND TO MOVE LIKE  
ONE, I BELIEVE YOU  
HAVE TO FIGURE OUT  
OTHER KINDS OF  
WORDS.

I'LL BUY  
SHIRTS TONIGHT  
FOR THE ONE  
WHO DOES  
IT BEST

WE HAVE  
TO MOVE,  
FIGHT, AND  
PLAY LIKE  
WE'RE WOLVES.

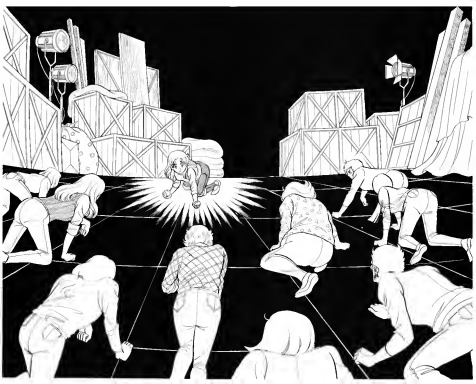




THERE  
ARE ALSO  
FELDS,  
BROOKS...













MAHARAJA  
IT IS RUDE TO BE  
LATE TO THE  
INTRODUCTORY  
GALA MEETING.



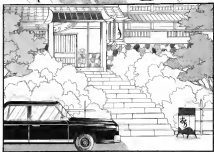
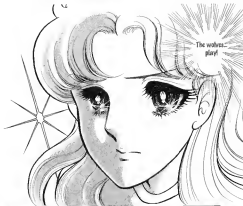






This is  
The Wild!







THIS WAY  
PLEASE

YOUR ARRIVAL  
HAS BEEN  
GREATLY  
ANTICIPATED



I KNOW!

BECAUSE  
IT WOULD  
BE...

AND ALSO,  
TRY NOT TO BE  
SLIDE TO THE  
YOUNG LADY

MARUMI-SAMA, DO  
NOT TALK ABOUT  
WORK AT THIS  
MEETING. IT WOULD  
BE UNPLEASANTLY  
BAD FORM

THE PRESIDENT I THINK NOT.  
HAS ASKED ME TO BE  
DILIGENT

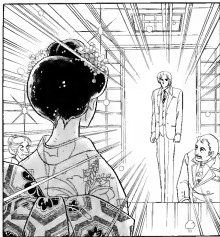
THIS IS EVENT  
IS IMPREC-  
EDENTED.



Shake



MARUMI-  
SAMA HAS  
ARRIVED





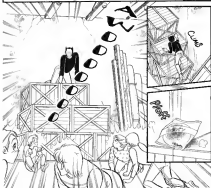






















And how  
would she  
feel when  
faced with  
other  
human  
beings?

It's the heart of  
the wolves that  
makes them  
take action!

Who would be strong or  
weak in Jane's eyes?



To some, you are  
the stronger...



And then, is the end...  
love...

Anger, sadness,  
fear, hate...



For a single moment

Stewart!

We must understand  
each other really well



I wonder which  
actor they'll  
choose.

I can't wait to  
meet him.

Interpreting with  
my partner will  
be the most  
difficult thing!

The young student that  
teaches Jane to act as  
a human being.

At first, she fights  
him, but later,  
becomes fond  
of him.





It's never done  
this with any  
actresses  
before.

How can such a  
cold-hearted  
businessman  
wear such  
a kind look?

I only caught a  
glimpse... but his  
companion looked  
really beautiful.



DON'T IT DISTURB YOU ANY-GUY?

ANY-GUY-SAN



WELL...



ANY-GUY-SAN, WHO WAS THAT PERSON I JUST SAW WITH ANY-GUY-SAN?



BUT HOW COULD YOU'RE HERE?

YOU ALSO, ANY-GUY-SAN.

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR A WHILE. YOU LOOK WELL.

I'VE COME TO BRING ANY-GUY-SAN SOME DOCUMENTS REGARDING AN URGENT MATTER.



FREE TIME?

I HAVE TO DISTURB HIM IN HIS FREE TIME, BUT I MUST.



WILLIAM-  
SAMA HAS  
AGREED TO  
AN OMBL...

AND SHE  
IS THE  
PROSPECT-  
IVE  
BRIDE.

An onigiri?

And  
Accepting an  
arranged  
marriage!

By your  
own...

That is...  
the reason for  
that smile?

...is getting  
married!





That

BUT I  
THINK IT  
WILL BE  
SOON.

NO,  
NOT  
YET.

EH...  
AND SO...  
ARE THEY  
ALREADY  
ENGAGED?



I HAVE  
TO GO!



GOOD-  
BYE,  
MITSU-  
CHIKO.

EH...THEN  
MAYAMU-  
SAN...



OH,  
LOOK  
AT THE  
TIME!

THE PRE-  
SIDENT,  
MAYAMU-  
SAN'S  
FATHER,  
SUPPORTS IT  
STRONGLY.



THIS MARRIAGE  
WILL BE VERY  
USEFUL FOR DATO  
AST PRODUCTIONS.





What is this feeling?

It's like my heart  
is suddenly...  
empty!

Yet  
why do  
I feel so  
strong?

An angel?

That  
heartless  
business-  
man...

Whoosh

...Is getting  
married?

What's  
happening  
to me?



LET'S BEGIN!  
THIS IS THE  
FIRST DAY OF  
PRODUCTION  
OF...

...FORGOTTEN  
WILDERNESS,  
A PLAY OF  
OSAWA  
PRODUCTIONS!



**CREAK**

FORGIVE ME  
FOR BEING  
LATE.



OH! YOU'RE  
HERE!  
JUST IN  
TIME.

I'M  
ABOUT  
TO  
INTRO-  
DUCE  
YOU.



WELCOME  
TO  
OSAWA  
PRODUCTIONS.

WELCOME  
TO  
OSAWA  
PRODUCTIONS.



Sakurakoji-kun!

THE YOUNG STUDENT  
THAT DEDICATES  
HIMSELF TO THE  
TASK OF TEACHING  
JANE TO BECOME  
HUMAN IS...

...YUU  
SAKURA-  
KOJI!

A black and white manga-style panel. On the left, a young man with dark, curly hair is shown in profile, looking towards a group of people. In the center-right, a young woman with long dark hair is looking up at him with a surprised expression, her hands clasped near her face. Behind her, several other people are visible, some looking in the same direction. A bright, starburst-like light effect is behind the woman's head.

Satorakoji-kun  
will be my  
partner!

# Star Child Chapter 28 Chapter 28

Translated by  
Jelly-Jelly  
Edited by Miki  
Proofread by  
Sakura  
Cover by [S]

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Utago

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## SOME NOTES ABOUT THIS CHAPTER

In case if May is referring to some characters from manga titles running in the 10's, I have no idea who Kurt is but here's some info about the rest.



Kurt from Pyraleto

Kurt is the main character of the series *Pyraleto* by Yusei Seng. He's the prince of a tiny kingdom who leaves home to find a way to heal his petrified adoptive mother. On his journey he'll face many challenges and enemies.



Maki-chan from Aoi no Maki-chan

Maki-chan is a cute and vivacious main character of a children's educational series by Kawasaka Shinsuke. It depicts the life and adventures of Maki-chan and her friends with a touch of comedy.



Potelling

Potelling is a semi-running series by Kinoko Maki. The main character, for which the series is named, is the King of Mafrore. Potelling the Fourth, a taller, ten year old boy who has flashes of genius. He can be thoughtlessly cruel at times and has the uncanny ability to make anything into a bad pun. Although extremely smart, he often does very stupid things due to his wit.

## SOME NOTES ABOUT THIS CHAPTER

### Oshi

Oshi (おし) is a Japanese custom whereby unrelated individuals are introduced to each other to consider the possibility of marriage.

The initiative for these introductions often comes from the parents who may feel that their son or daughter is of a marriageable age, but has shown little or no sign of seeking a partner on their own. Parents may enlist the aid of professional matchmakers, *naishis*, who charge a fee to provide pictures and resumes of potential mates who are rich, cultured and/or well-educated. The word 'Oshi' is used to describe both the entire process as well as the first meeting between the couple with the matchmaker and often couple's parents present. *Oshis* are often carried out in extensive tea shops or hotels with all present dressed in formal attire. At this meeting, resumes are presented and the parents of the potential couple and wife may engage in a friendly chat for ten to fifteen minutes, revealing details about themselves or their marriages. The parents and mediator will then leave the prospective couple alone during which time they are free to converse freely for as long as they wish. After the initial meeting, each party will contact the *naishi* whether or not they wish to arrange additional meetings. Over the next few subsequent dates, the couple will decide whether they want to get married or not.

Although this custom is sometimes described as "arranged marriage", in its modern form it is the couple that makes the final decision whether to marry or not. Quite often one side or the other will veto the idea of a union, and the matchmaker will then introduce other prospects. Japanese often seek to see their parents' wishes into account, and may, for example, turn down an attractive prospect if the parents are opposed.

If a union is successfully negotiated, the bride and her parents will pay a visit to the bride's family and present them with a dowry intended in part to offset the expenses involved in paying for the wedding.

In Japan, there is considerable debate about the relative merits of *oshi* marriages versus *randi* marriages (i.e. love matches based on romantic love). The traditional perspective of *randi* marriages views them as volatile, unworkable and short-lived. Traditionalists present *Oshi* as a practical alternative, focusing on the bride's ability to provide for the family and the woman's cultural attainments, such as the ability to arrange flowers or do the tea ceremony.

# Star Child Chapter 28 Chapter A

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Sakura  
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